The Funds Transfer Agent Agreement:

An Innovative Way for Women and Minority-Owned Businesses to Satisfy the Capital Requirements of the Natural Gas Marketplace

HOW THE FTA WORKS:

The WMBE natural gas marketer identifies potential gas Supplier and Re-purchaser.

The WMBE locates a bank willing to act as its agent in the transaction. The WMBE signs a Funds Transfer Agent Agreement with the bank and the bank becomes the WMBE's Funds Transfer Agent.

The WMBE incorporates the Funds Transfer Agent Agreement in the purchase contract with the Supplier and the sales contract with the Re-purchaser.

The bank acts as an intermediary, handling payment from the repurchaser to the gas supplier via a "blocked" account in the WMBE name. *Title is instantaneously transferred from the Supplier to the WMBE to the Re-purchaser.*

WHO BENEFITS?

The WMBE:

- Short Term Obtains a Transactional Instrument that can be used to Buy/Sell natural gas.
- <u>Long Term</u> Develops an ongoing credit relationship with a bank.
- Greater access to natural gas marketplace.

The Bank:

- Grows new customer/new market.
- 1-2 day access to purchasers funds.
- Significantly increase its business activities with small and minority-owned businesses.
- Earns CRA credit for the loan.

WHO BENEFITS?

The Supplier:

- Assured Payment.
- Access to new/niche markets.
- Significantly increase its sales to small and minority-owned businesses.

The Re-Purchaser:

- More suppliers.
- Lower prices.
- Significantly increased amount of purchases from women and minority-owned businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Peter Lagiovane, U.S Department of Energy, 202-586-8116.
- Will Johnson, President, Visage Energy, Culver City, California, 310-216-6887.
- Yolande Hollis, Union Bank of California, Energy Capital Services, Los Angeles, California, 213-236-5130.